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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Chen

Serial No. 09/833,016

Filed: 04/10/2001

Cont

For: Force-Balanced Roller-Cone Bits, Systems, Drilling Methods, and
Design Methods

:
: Art Unit: 3672
: Examiner: Hoang Dang
: Atty's Docket: SC-98-25A

#9/833,016
Examined
10/31/02

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GROUP 3600

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

The accompanying form PTO-1449 lists one or more documents which may be considered material to the examination of this application. A copy of each document is provided, if available.

Applicant has learned of a potentially interfering application of another. Several applications of Smith International appear to include subject matter to which the present application may be relevant prior art, and some of these applications appear to contain interfering claims. These applications include: 09/524088; 09/589999; 09/590577; 09/590580; 09/635116; 09/640219; 09/689299; and 09/775530.

Applicant reserves the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the listed documents should they be applied thereagainst as references, and/or to prove that some of these documents may not be prior art, may not be within an analogous field of art, and/or may not be enabling for the teachings they purport to offer.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that an exhaustive search has been made, nor that more material information does not exist.

The Examiner is specifically requested to conduct an independent and thorough review of the documents, and to form his own opinions as to the significance of those documents to patentability of the claimed inventions, regardless of any of the foregoing statements concerning the significance of the references. The foregoing statements are made in good faith, and in compliance with the duty of disclosure; but they cannot substitute for the Examiner's specialized expertise, nor are they intended to derogate from the Examiner's official duty to assess patentability.

It is also respectfully noted that the submission of this material is **not** intended to displace the Examiner's professional ability and duty to search. Indeed, the Examiner is specifically requested **not** to rely on the materials submitted herewith, but to conduct a full and independent search.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449, to indicate in the file of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

Respectfully submitted,



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October 15, 2002